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RESERVE
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A top official of the Central Intelligence Agency and the number two man in charge of U.S. Army troops in Europe agree that basing intermediate-range nuclear weapons in NATO countries is critical to preventing war in Europe.

Lt. Gen. John F. Forrest, deputy U.S. Army commander for Europe, said Friday the Pershing II missiles are needed in western Europe "to counter the Soviet deployment of SS-20 missiles in Warsaw Pact nations."

And Deputy CIA Director John N. McMahon also told the national convention of the U.S. Reserve Officers Association that Pershing and Cruise missiles in NATO countries "would counter the Soviet's enormous (weapons) capabilities."

But, while Forrest said new weapons in western Europe should be balanced by continued "financial commitments" in those countries, McMahon said, "Our friends are as much a problem as our enemies."

"Japan and Western Europe now compete for the world's markets. They use the might of their governments to back their (national) companies. And they use their diplomatic might to persuade other countries to buy their products," McMahon said.

Forrest told the 1,500 delegates to the ROA's 57th annual convention, "Many Americans believe the Europeans are not devoting enough of their national treasures to their own defense and that the United States should cut back its contribution to NATO."

"I can assure you that our country and our allies remain on course with reality and sound strategy. Both our country and our European allies are resolved to make the sacrifices necessary to continue to face the duty of anchoring the free world."

He said, if the Warsaw Pact countries believe the United States and NATO are prepared, "they will discard war in Europe as a reasonable option."